GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5502
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
STUDY BY NASA ON POLLUTION LEVEL
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to check environmentally polluted States of the country preferably in rural areas and main cities of the country;

(b) whether a National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) research team and other teams examining air pollution levels over the Indian subcontinent have found an immense pollution pool over large number of States of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a large source contributing to the State`s pollution pool is the inefficient burning of variety of bio-fuels during cooking and other domestic use; and

(e) if so the steps being taken by the Central Pollution Board and State Pollution Control Boards in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) For abatement of pollution from various industrial activities, measures have been initiated which inter-alia include the following:

(i) Notification of general and source specific standards and their enforcement;

(ii) Regular monitoring for compliance of prescribed environmental norms;

(iii) Promotion of better technologies and cleaner fuels;

(iv) Issuance of notices/direction to defaulting units for installation of pollution control devices; and

(v) Implementation on the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection for 17 categories of polluting industries.

(b) & (c) Based on the analysis of satellite data captured by National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA), United States of America (USA), researchers have reported about winter-time pool of air polluting particles over Indo-gangetic plain, where meteorology and topography favour trapping of pollution during winter.

(d) The studies indicate that a large source of pollution is inefficient burning of bio-fuels (largely fuel wood, dung-cake and crop waste) used during cooking and other domestic use, the use of coal for utilities and industries, and the use of diesel oil for transportation.

(e) The Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board have initiated steps including action plans to control air pollution from various sources like vehicles, industries, domestic fuel burning etc.